

Exempt Action – Board of Optometry

Virginia Administrative Code

CHAPTER 20

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE PRACTICE OF OPTOMETRY

18VAC105-20-5. Definitions.

The following words and terms when used in this chapter shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

"Board" means the Virginia Board of Optometry.

"NBEO" means the National Board of Examiners in Optometry.

"TPA" means therapeutic pharmaceutical agents.

"TPA certification" means authorization by the Virginia Board of Optometry for an optometrist to treat diseases and abnormal conditions of the human eye and its adnexa and to prescribe and administer certain therapeutic pharmaceutical agents.

18VAC105-20-10. Licensure by examination.

A. The applicant, in order to be eligible for licensure by examination to practice optometry in the Commonwealth, shall meet the requirements for TPA certification in 18VAC105-20-16 and shall:

1. Be a graduate of a school of optometry accredited by the Council on Optometric Education; have an official transcript verifying graduation sent to the board;

2. Request submission of an official report from the ~~National Board of Examiners in Optometry~~ NBEO of a score received on each required part of the NBEO examination ~~of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry~~ or other board-approved examination; and

3. Submit a completed application and the prescribed fee.

B. Applicants who passed the National Board Examination prior to May 1985 shall apply for licensure by endorsement as provided for in 18VAC105-20-15.

C. Required examinations.

1. For the purpose of §54.1-3211 of the Code of Virginia, the board adopts all parts of the NBEO examination ~~of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry~~ as its written examination for licensure. After July 1, 1997, the board shall require passage as determined by the board of Parts I, II, and III of the ~~National Board Examination~~ NBEO examination.

2. As part of the application for licensure, an applicant must sign a statement attesting that he has read, understands, and will comply with the statutes and regulations governing the practice of optometry in Virginia.

18VAC105-20-15. Licensure by endorsement.

A. An applicant for licensure by endorsement shall meet the requirements for TPA certification in 18VAC105-20-16, pay the fee as prescribed in 18VAC105-20-20 and file a completed application that certifies the following:

1. The applicant has successfully completed a licensing examination or certification in optometry in any jurisdiction of the United States that is approximately comparable to the Virginia examination at the time of initial licensure.

2. The applicant has been engaged in active clinical practice for at least 36 months out of the last 60 months immediately preceding application.

3. The applicant is not a respondent in a pending or unresolved malpractice claim.

4. Each jurisdiction in which the applicant is currently licensed has verified that:

a. The license is full and unrestricted, and all continuing education requirements have been completed, if applicable;

b. The applicant is not a respondent in any pending or unresolved board action;

c. The applicant has not committed any act which would constitute a violation of §54.1-3204 or 54.1-3215 of the Code of Virginia; and

d. The applicant has graduated from an accredited school or college of optometry.

B. The applicant shall also provide proof of competency in the use of diagnostic pharmaceutical agents (DPAs) which shall consist of a report from the national board of passing scores on all sections of Parts I and II of the ~~National Board Examination~~ NBEO examination taken in May 1985 or thereafter. If the applicant does not qualify through examination, he shall provide other proof of meeting the requirements for the use of DPA as provided in §§54.1-3220 and 54.1-3221 of the Code of Virginia.

C. As part of the application for licensure, an applicant must sign a statement attesting that he has read, understands, and will comply with the statutes and regulations governing the practice of optometry in Virginia.

D. In the case of a federal service optometrist, the commanding officer shall also verify that the applicant is in good standing and provide proof of credentialing and quality assurance review to satisfy compliance with applicable requirements of subsection A of this section.

E. In the event the examinations for initial licensure are determined not comparable, the board may require the applicant to take and pass a regional or national practical examination.

F. An optometrist previously licensed in Virginia is not eligible for licensure by endorsement but may apply for reinstatement of licensure under 18VAC105-20-60.

18VAC105-20-16. Requirements for TPA certification.

A. An applicant for licensure shall meet the following requirements for TPA certification:

1. Complete a full-time, postgraduate or equivalent graduate-level optometric training program that is approved by the board and that shall include a minimum of 20 hours of clinical supervision by an ophthalmologist; and
2. Take and pass the TPA certification examination, which shall be Treatment and Management of Ocular Disease (TMOD) of the ~~National Board of Optometric Examiners (NBOE)~~ NBEO or, if TPA-certified by a state examination, provide evidence of comparability to the ~~NBOE~~ NBEO examination that is satisfactory to the board.

B. A candidate for certification by the board who fails the examination as required in subdivision A 2 of this section, following three attempts, shall complete additional postgraduate training as determined by the board to be eligible for TPA certification.

Certification

I certify that this regulation is full, true, and correctly dated.

Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Virginia Board of Optometry

Date: _____